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Agenda item 72 (b)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Cameroon* and Liberia: draft resolution

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/105 of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/34 B of 20 November 2000 and 55/233 of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001,

Recalling further its resolutions 58/176 of 22 December 2003, 59/183 of 20 December 2004, 60/151 of 16 December 2005, 61/158 of 19 December 2006, 62/221 of 22 December 2007, 63/177 of 18 December 2008, 64/165 of 18 December 2009, 66/162 of 19 December 2011, 68/174 of 18 December 2013 and 70/167 of 17 December 2015 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[1]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

[1] See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

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Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Noting the holding of the forty-first, forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Libreville from 23 to 27 November 2015, in Bangui from 6 to 10 June 2016, in Sao Tome from 28 November to 1 December 2016, and in Yaoundé from 29 May to 2 June 2017,

Taking note of the decision of the High Commissioner to launch a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,[4]

Noting the context of deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by increasing and indiscriminate attacks and massive abuses of human rights by Boko Haram against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad Basin countries,[3]

Noting also that the effective presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,[3]

Mindful of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for sufficient funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,[3]

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the implementation of the framework of the thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights management plan for 2014–2017;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of the Centre in the area of human rights in development and in the economic sphere, through advocacy and the provision of guidance to States, private sector companies and businesses in the subregion with a view to strengthening commitments to protect and/or respect human rights, and encourages the Centre to increase its support in this field;

6. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union,

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).

[3] A/72/518.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/70/36), chap. III.

the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams of the subregion;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

8. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly[5] in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, taking note of the organizational change initiative in the Office of the High Commissioner, to continue to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office to enable the Centre to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African subregion;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

[5] Resolutions 61/158, 62/221, 63/177 and 64/165.